

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the currently outstanding non-final Official Action in the above-identified continued prosecution application.

Claims 1-11 were originally presented. The present Amendment amends Claims 1, 3 and 11. Claim 4 is canceled, without prejudice. No claims are added. No new matter is added by virtue of the foregoing Amendment. Accordingly, upon the entry of the foregoing Amendment, the claims under active prosecution in this application will be Claims 1-3 and 5-11.

The claims as they will stand upon the entry of the foregoing Amendment are set forth in full herein as required by the Rules.

More particularly, in the currently outstanding Official Action, the Examiner has:

1. Acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 USC 119(a)-(d) or (f), and also confirmed the receipt of the required certified copy of the priority documentation by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.
2. Acknowledged Applicants' Information Disclosure Statements submitted on August 14, 2001 and August 25, 2003 by providing Applicants with copies of the Forms PTO-1449 that accompanied those filings duly signed, dated and initialed by the Examiner in confirmation of her consideration of the art listed therein;
3. Indicated that the drawings originally filed with this application on 12 June 2001 have been accepted;

4. Objected to the Title of the Invention on the basis that it is not descriptive of the invention being claimed and required Applicant to submit an acceptable new Title of the Invention – **By the foregoing Amendment, Applicant has deleted the present Title of the Invention and substituted a new Title of the Invention therefor, and respectfully submits that the new Title of the Invention is appropriately descriptive of the invention now being claimed – a decision so holding in response to this communication is respectfully requested;**
5. Rejected Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8-11 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Harada reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,534,973); and
6. Rejected Claim 7 (and apparently Claim 11) under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Harada reference in view of the Doery reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,508,447).

No further specific comment regarding items 1–4 above is deemed to be required in these Remarks.

With respect to items 5 and 6, Applicant by the foregoing Amendment has canceled Claim 4, without prejudice, and incorporated the limitations of canceled Claim 4 into Claim 1 and Claim 11, respectively. Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing Amendment places all of Claims 1-3 and 5-11 in condition for allowance.

More specifically, the Examiner in the currently outstanding Official Action has indicated that if Claim 4 were to be rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, it would be allowable. The foregoing amendment of Claim 1 constitutes Claim 4 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 as hereinabove amended now is in condition for allowance.

Further, Claim 2 is dependent upon Claim 1 and Claims 3 and 5-10 are dependent upon Claims 1 or 2. Accordingly, since all of Claims 2-3 and 5-10 are directly or indirectly dependent upon an allowable base claim (i.e., amended Claim 1), Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-3 and 5-10 are now in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner has categorized Claim 11 as being representative of a synthesis of Claims 1-10. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that since the Examiner has determined that the combination of the subject matter of Claims 1 and 4 is patentable, the combination of the subject matter of Claims 4 and 11 is patentable as well. Consequently, it is believed that amended Claim 11 also now is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims that will be present in this application upon the entry of the foregoing Amendment (i.e., Claims 1-3 and 5-11, as amended) are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application in response to this communication, therefore, is respectfully requested.

Applicants also believe that additional fees beyond those submitted herewith are not required in connection with the consideration of this response to the currently outstanding Official Action. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. **04-1105**, as necessary, for the correct payment of all fees which may be due in connection with the filing and consideration of this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

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**SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER**

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